

April 8, 2011

Rural patient care systems

ISSUE: The Patient Protection and Affordability Act (PPACA) of 2010 requires MedPAC to evaluate access to care, quality of care, and the adequacy of Medicare payments in rural areas. The report is due June 15, 2012. In this meeting we will hear from two leaders of rural health care organizations.

KEY POINTS: Bruce Hamory, former chief medical officer of Geisinger Health System, will discuss how his large system serves rural patients across 40 sites in Pennsylvania. Jim Long, CEO of West River Health Services a small integrated healthcare provider in Hettinger, North Dakota (a town of 1,300 people) will talk about caring for rural patients in a frontier area with a primary-care-focused delivery system.

ACTION: Commissioners will discuss methods of delivering care in rural areas with our two speakers.

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